PIERS
Plainnes ſeauen yeres Prentiſhip.

By H. C.

Nuda Veritas.

Printed at London by I. Danter
for Thomas Boſſon, and are to be ſold at his
ſhop by London bridge Gate.
1595.

PIERS

Plainnes Iauon

Yeres Prentiship.

By H. C.

Nasle Virum.

Printed at London by I. Danter
for Thomas Colton, and are to beefold at his
shop by London bridge Gate.
1 5 9 8.

PIERS PLAINNES
ſeuen yeres Prentiſhip.



THE Sunne no ſoner entred Gemini, but Natures plentie and Earths pride, gaue the huſbandman hope of gainefull Harueſt, and the ſhepheard aſſurance of happie increaſe; the firſt cherſhed with the liuely Spring of his deade ſowne ſeede: The ſeconde cheared by the liuing preſence of his late yeande Lambes.

In that months prime, Menalcas (no meane ſhepheard of Theſſalie) ſate in a groue of Pines vnder the principall tree, penſiue inough, though not pining either for loue or loſſe: His ſeruaunt (among other ſwaines) was the meane while vnfolding his ſheep, the neighbring grounds to Tempe was their paſture, euen Tempe the pleaſure of Theſſalie, and Paradice of Greece.

To Menalcas thus ſolitary, one day when the Sun had newly dried vp the Mornings balmy moyſture, came a kinde companion of his, Coridon it was, no ſhepheard, but a plough-ſwaine: no leſſe wealthy than the Heardman, their credits equal, their wits not

different: vieuing the shepheards beauinesse, the husbandman thus said.

I muse not a little Menalcas, nowe when euery creature takes delight in company, you shoulde desire this solitude: Did snow couer the mountains, or swelling flouds ouercharge the valleyes: Did ysicles dangle downe the dew laps of your heard, or diseases inuade your flocks, somewhat it were you should be thus sorrowfull: But seeing on the hills your Goats browse on sweete smelling Thyme, in the dales your shepe chew no lesse delightfull grasse: those teaching their kids to skip the hollowe places of the crag, these wantoning with their Lambes amonge the flowers of the meades: fields abounding with Floraes beauty, flouds not ouerchargde with Phœbes plenty: all yelding you good, your selfe exceeding each neighboring shepheard in goods: wonder it is, euery of them frolikking, you should alone sit thus disconsolate. Want which greeues you I knowe it is not, that my last reason hath refuted: Wealth that lifts you vp, I am sure it cannot bee, that familiar conuersation hath refelled: for as yee are not pore, so were ye neuer proud: that you hate any deadly, your wonted mildnes forbids me to suppose, that you loue Lycoris alone, your vowes and her vertue, (beside your sequen yeares marriage) assures mee: so that seeing neither from loue, nor hate, nor wealth, nor want in my conceit, these passions of solitarines are sprung, let Corydon your olde acquaintance intreat yee to vnfold your griefs, which if it be not in my power wholly to redresse, I will indeuour to procure some remedy, if either countenance, counsell, or coyne can giue ayde. Disclose it therefore Menalcas, I am prepard to heare, and will be as ready to adusse.

Kindely offered Corydon, replyed Menalcas: and well hast thou gest mee free from euery incommodity before named, and shalt be immediatly resolud whence

now

now my meditation ariſes: being free from ſorowe I proteſt, yet full of ſuſpect, I truſt cauſeles: but when thou heareſt it, as thou ſhalt like, ſo counſaile me.

A two daies ſince, when laſt Lycoris and I viſited thée and thy Palma, in our return home we entertaind a new ſeruant, plaine in condition for any thing I can geſſe, of body ſtrong, of wit prompt, of ſpéech not altogether rude, but exceéding Satyrical: his bringing vp I know not, thence ariſes my doubt, ſéeing laſt weéke Damon, laſt yeare Lycoſtes (both my neighbors, and thy familliars) had by entertaignement of ſtraglers ſtrange miſfortunes. Coulde thy affaires Corydon permit thée ſo much leyſure, I would require thy company to conferre with him: About this time hath hee vnfolded his ſhéepe, and thus haue I anſwered thy ſuſpect: what I doubted thou knoweſt, aſſiſt me to be of this doubt reſolude if thou maiſt.

To this Corydon eaſily conſented, Menalcas roſe, they left the Groue and entred the plaine, where Piers Plainnes (for ſo was Menalcas mans name) hauing ſet his ſhéepe to féede, founde himſelfe no little worke with platting wheate ſtrawe for a ſummer bonnet, to to beare off the violence of the Sunnes beames: while his fingers went, his tonge lay not ſtill, but thus to his ſhéepe and himſelfe he ſung:

Feede on my flocke ſecurely,
Your ſhepheard watcheth ſurely;
Runne about my little Lambs,
Skipp and wanton with your Dams:
Your louing Heard with care will tend yee.

Sport on faire flocke at pleaſure,
Nip Veſtaes flouring treaſure;
I my ſelfe will duely harke,

When my watchfull Dogg doth barke:
From Woolfe and Foxe wee will defende yee.

As he was going on, he spied his Maister and Corydon at hand: wherewith leauing his song, he attended Corydons words that first salated him in this sort: God morrow friend, well worthy the name of a shepheard, if thy seruice bee answerable to thy song. If it bee not said Piers, I dow but imitate the most, that whatsoeuer they say, liue as they list.

Of them what thinkst thou said Corydon? As they dow of themselues replyed Piers, and you suspect of mee: I gesse them to be hypocrites, which they knowe true, you doubt to be an eye-seruant, wherein ye deeme untruely. Thou art bery plaine with mee quoth Corydon. I cannot chose saide Piers, for I am plaine by name and nature. Thou art too blunt quoth Menalcas, he is my honest friend, and kinde familiar. Maister said Piers, how long hath he beene your familiar? This twenty winters answered Menalcas. And hath hee euer since quoth Piers beene your assured friend? He hath said the other. Happy is Piers then to happen in such a seruice, for in Thrace and Creete haue I seuen yeares beene a prentice, howe many Maisters in that time I haue serued, it were a story to tell, and were it worth the telling I would describe it in a story: but in al that time could I neuer be acquainted with any man so happie, that had a true friend of tenne dayes standing. Menalcas and Corydon hearing him so pleasantly offer, what they onely required, willed him to deliuer as hee thought best, the places of his seruice, the persons hee serude with, and manner of his vsage: He as ready to performe as they to demaunde, craude pardon to sit because the talke was long, which they willingly graunted. Then in an artificiall seate formde out of a freely budding

budding thorne, ſate they all three downe, and Piers hauing the preheminence of the middle place, beganne as followeth.

Hylenus now the ſecond time gouerneth in Thrace: whoſe fortunes, his Childrens, and Aeliana the Cretan Quéens (during my ſeuen yeres ſeruice) I will handle, that you may know both what I haue béene, and what the world is.

Hylenus had two ſonnes, Celinus and Aemilius, and one daughter, named Rhodope: the Daughters birth-day was her Mothers death-day, by the treacherous complot of a Perſian Hand-maid, that of priuate grudge poyſoned the new deliuered Quéene: and being apprehended, denide not the fact, for which ſhee ſuffered a deſerued death.

The ſonnes were borne twinnes, about three yeres elder than their ſiſter, Celinus ſo like Aemilius in conſtitution of bodie, and ſo vnlike in diſpoſition of mind, that it bred admiration in all that knew their bringing vp: Aemilius being no leſſe loued for his vertue, than Celinus hated for his vice.

In the Court (and in no meane account) ſwayed a Noble man, named Celydon: one of his mens-men was my maſter, a maſter to his maſter ſo ſeruiceable, as no ſlaue could be more ſubmiſſe. Celydon had the charge of Hylenus Nauie, hauing likewiſe charge of a Caſtle on the mouth of Hebrus, to defend the entrie from forren inuaſion. Popular hee was and liberall, of King and people well beloued.

The remiſſe dealing of Celinus drew from him his fathers heart, who by publike Edict proclaimed Aemilius his heir apparant. Celydon vnder whoſe ſmoothe looks ambitions fire lay couered, thinking to take the fitteſt of opportunities, preſently vpon this Edict ſent for Celinus, and in priuate demaunds how he tooke ſo

publike an iniurie? Who minding more the fulfilling of his lust than anie regall dignitie: made answere, it was no wrong to him to liue at libertie. But with many reasons Celydon reproouing his remisnes, laying open the glorie of estate, the power to willanye thing vncontrould, and such like: Celinus began a little to giue eare, protesting he would be Aemilius priest if his father immediately reuokd not the Edict. To calme this furie, yet kindle a more vnnaturall flame, Celydon thus slily practisde.

It is in vaine (saith he) to purpose the ruine of Celinus alone, sith your father (vtterly forgetting the follies of his owne youth, exceeding yours by infinite degrees) hath absolutely dispossest you of all claime to the kingdom, naming your sister next in succession if Aemilius die: if both he and she depart issuelesse, he hath bequeathed the kingdome to the election of the State. To this his will haue all assented, and I durst not (being alone, denie to giue consent: but how much against my will, shall well appeare by this that followes. To morrow intends the king priuatly to disport with me at my Castle builded on the banke of Hebrus, Aemilius and Rhodope with some small traine shall beare him companie: when they are there, wold your Lordship consent, Celydon would set the crowne of Thrace vpon your head, before the Sunne were twice set.

Would I consent (saith Celinus)? Why Celydon, what will I not do? Shall we there murder Hylenus, no more of me meriting the name of father, being so vnnaturall? Shall we strangle Aemilius my vsurping brother? commit Rhodope to the mercie of some rude mercenarie, that may crop the flower of her beautie, or drag her Polixena-like to sacrifice? What will not Celinus attempt that Celydon can set downe to reuenge an iniurie so notorious.

Then said Celydon, let your Highnes see this per-

formd,

ſorrow, Gather together againſt morning the deſperateſt aſſociates you can conſort your ſelfe withall, ruſh violently into the Pallace, breake open the Treaſurie, ſeaze on the diademe and kingly ornaments, while I make ſure Hylenus, Aemilius and Rhodope: for neuer ſhall Prince of Thrace of his birth-right be diſpoſſeſt, while Celidon hath power to lift a ſword.

With millions of thankes, and proteſtation of as manie rewards, Celinus embraces Celydon, giuing him the name of father, patrone and protector, promiſing the whole Realm ſhalbe at his direction, and thus this plot of conſpiracie confirmd, celinus and celydon part. Thus went the matters of State: now to our houſhold affaires, and yet no houſhold affaires neither, for my maſter kept no houſe: but be it houſe or chamber, thus it was.

Being at my choyce of maſters, of ſundrie ages & occupations: I that had in my childhood bin experienſt in trades, and found in few of them plaine dealing, deſperate to do among them anie good, they had ſo ſmall delight in goodnes, I left Gods bleſſing for the warme ſunne: and wondring what braue life it was to bee a Courtier, I bound my ſelfe for ſeuen yere with one Thraſilio, as ſmooth a tongud Gentleman, as euer Terences Gnatho was a Paraſite. At my firſt entertainment, hee told me hee was a retainer to Lord celydon, whoſe verie name in all the Countrey was highly reuerenced: but the truth was as I afore ſaid, he retayned to Flauius a walkfull Gentleman, belonging to celidon: by attending on whoſe trencher, hee got bare maintenance for himſelfe and me.

This Flauius vſde him as a Jeſter: for if loud lyars be jeſters, he was the excellentſt I euer knewe. Hee was acquainted with none but Kings and great Captaines of Armies, on whom he had beſtowed infinite ſummes of money toward their expences: for he was

ſo

so well seene in the Philosophers stone, that gold was to him as drosse. In set Empertall battells, on horseback and on foote, he had serud some thirtie times, and alwaies on his part attended victorie: his wardrop & iewels were without number. These were his brags notoriously noted in Court and Citie. Yet trust mee I take it he had some skill in Alchymie, for hee helpt Flauius to conuert much faire lining into fine gold: for his valor, a purer coward knew I neuer, and for his wealth, he bourely marched in the midst of it. In his diet he was verie sparing, because he had small store of spare money to buy meate: and had not the scullerie at the Court bẽn my best ambrie, I must either haue left my master, or lost my life. With this Braggart had I scarce bẽn two yeres, when the conspiracie of celinus and celydon began.

The night before it brake forth, Flauius sent word to my master to prouide his weapons, for next day should be a desperate fray, Flauius being a pongster of celinus consort. But he that had seene the pitifull plight my master was in, whẽ these tidings of fighting came, might well haue gest his valour by his visage: yet he bragd it out, saying the palenes of his colour came frõ the anger of his heart, and swore the quaking of hys ioynts onely prelaged his impatience. All that night had I the office of an Armorer, but with his daily wearing rapier had I most adw, for it was almost two howers ere I could draw it: how well he vde it when he had it, you shall heare when time serues. Let vs now returne to celydon.

Night the darke shrowd of euerie euill, had giuen courage to his desperate abhord consorts: who bẽing placed in the way, resolued to performe this insuing stratageme, celydon with spæde postes to conduct the vnmisdẽming king and his innocent Children to the place appoynted for the perfection of his desperate intent:

intent: while celinus ſcattered troupes await in the Citie their time.

That morning, no ſooner did the Forreſt Clearkes chaunt forth their variable noates, but Hylenus, Aemilius and Rhodope, ſlenderly accompanied, truſtely relying on celydon, ſet forward to his Caſtle: and riding through an edge of Hemus, ſodaine were violently aſſailed, their followers ſlaine, themſelues ſurprized, the intention by celydons owne mouth vttred, death ſharpe and haſtie for them prepared. Hylenus at this ſodaine conſpiracie amazed, ſeeing the traitrous butchers prouided for Aemilius and Rhodopes ſlaughter, thus for a time ſtayed them from their deſperate and diueliſh reſolution.

celydon (ſaid he) the manie fauours Hylenus hath beſtowed on thée and thy fathers houſe (were I ſilent) would plead my ſorrow for this ſinne of thine, beeing ſo much the greater, by treaſon of my exceeding loue to thée. Beeing in thy infancie left fatherleſſe, I of thy prince became thy fatherly protector: and in the increaſing of thy yeares of a priuate man I haue made thée a Prince, and Protectour of the chéefeſt ſtrength of Thrace: and haſt thou thus (falſe celydon) requited all my good? But thou coloureſt thy vile treaſon, with celinus charge: why (celydon) when was he ſworn thy King? what Nobles (with thée) haue giuen their oathes to him? His leaud life, and manners laſciuious, (by thée moſt of anie other noated, and miſliked) drew me to fruſtrate him of all hope to inherite. And is he now become thy King? wilt thou by him be ſo ſodainly commanded? No, no celydon, celinus onely is thy ſhadowe, thou the intruder, bee thy inſtrument. Why delayeſt thou falſe conſpirer, ſeaze on me, & commit both theſe ſinnes in one, Licaon-like murder thy gueſt, ſo ſinne againſt the Gods of hoſpitalitie, traitor-like ſtab thy King, and expect the fit reward of treche-

rie: but spare these innocents, least earth no longer beare thy vile impietie.

Celydon (vending his browes) ruthlesly commanded Aemilius and Rhodope to be strangled, giuing no other reply to Hylenus: who seeing reprooſe of no power to preuaile, humbled his heroicke heart, and prostrating himselfe before Celydon, cryed out.

Stay, stay, O let me once more speake to thee, before thou lop off two such braunches from my withered trunke. If not my kindnes, dignitie, and charge: yet let my age, humblenesse, and teares, intreate thee to shew pitie. Be not more ruthlesse than things sensleſſe: drops of raine pierce rockie marble, let my showers of teares enter thy stonie heart. In this Wood Tereus ravisht and wronged Philomele, he & his Lorme did perish for her onely rape: if in this Wood thou kill these innocents, thinkest thou to escape for so great an outrage? he was a king, thou but a subiect, his State sure, thine vnsetled. I sweare to thee by the immortal powers, and my children with like vow shall confirme my oath, if thou erile vs together, or severall, so thou preserue our liues, we will obscure our States, and neuer returne to Thrace, except recalled by thee, Celinus, or both.

Celydon at this relenting, knowing how religiously Hylenus euer regarded an oath, gaue charge they should forthwith be conuayed to Sea in three severall ships, and landed where the fortune of the wind should first driue them: which courtesie (though it included small kindnesse) all three accepted of him verie gratefully.

They being dispatcht to sea, Celydon poasted to the Citie: where Celinus against his comming, had thus played his pageant.

Scarce were the King and his Companie departed two miles from the Citie, when Celinus (hauing gathered

thered together a multitude of deſperate vnthrifts) ſeaſed violently on the ancient Nobles, ſlew ſome, forced other to flie: and poſſeſſing himſelfe of the Regall ornaments, proclaimed himſelfe King, and Celydon Protector of the Realme.

The Citizens ſhut vp their houſes, the better ſort hidde their heads, onely the leaud and riotous Liuers flocked in bands, crying out, Long liue Celinus King of Thrace.

To this vphot came Celydon with a companie of approoued ſouldiers: and loking ſtrangely at that Celinus had done, pacified the tumult with milde perſwaſions: and appoynted the fourth day following a time of hearing, when as Celinus ſhould either anſwere, or yelde reaſon for that hee had attempted: ſtill making faire weather to the people, that Hylenus was onely withdrawen for feare of treaſon, not vttring the effectiue worke of their trecherie: for had the Kings miſerie been knowen, the multitude could not haue been appeaſd.

In the beginning of this broyle, Flauius had ſent for Thraſilio my maſter: who hearing the Onſet giuen, leaſurely armed himſelfe, and by then the tumult was appeaſd, marching in ſtately equipage with his two hand ſword on his ſhoulder, his rapier on one ſide his pitholl on the other, mounted the ſcaffolde (among other ſquaring cutters) where Celinus in viewe of all the people ſate royally inueſted in his Regall ſtate and dignitie.

Among other things, it is not to be omitted, how like a tall ſquire I attended my maſter, with an old Morian on my head, and a launcin in my hand, which he a thouſand times ſwore was the ſame leading ſtaffe that Alexander vſde in his laſt battell againſt Darius: & like inough it was of great antiquitie: for canker and ruſt had conſumde both ſubſtance and beautie.

Ill weapond though we were, welcome wee were, and among our fellow Caualiers had the Bien venuto: for there euerie cobler was a captaine, and he that had but a bat on his necke, thought himselfe a commander. O had you seene the miserie in those few houres of Insurrection, with what violence the giddie headed people were carried to ill, how easely dissuaded from their alleagance, how willingly milled, no man scarcely knowing which part to take, the multitude were diuided into so manie parts: you might haue thought such happie, which had perished by one mans sword, and not liued the torment of so manie slaughterers: for in that broyle there perished fiue thousand persons, sonne, father and kindred, each by other murdred, and mangled with manie wounds.

As I earst said, with celydons faire speech the people were satisfied. Euerie man withdrew him home, my maister and I waiting at an inch on Flauius for reward of our daies seruice and our supper: where my maisters iests scarcely past currant, the companie were so busied about that bold attempt of celinus, being in such disgrace, the easie shutting vp of the matter by celydon, the absence of the King, and such other accidents.

That night it was my destinie to be deliuered from the seruice of Thrasilio that base Braggadoche: for wearied with my bluntnes (that could neither soth his leaudnes nor smoothe his lying) he began to indent for some crownes with Flauius to sell my time. What mooued him to affect mee I knowe not well: this afterward he said caused it, that he saw me plaine, & among many sothers, he needed one reproouer to acquaint him with their seuerall infirmities. In briefe, he bought my yeares, and I was rid from the bondage both of a fole and a flatterer, beeing my first maister in Court, farre worse than euer ante I had in the Countrey: he

he was euer begging, ſtill beggarly, prying, complaining, ſcothing, ſwearing, bold to accuſe, fearefull to continue accuſations: in fine he was as all flatterers are, the very tennis ball of them he ſcothed, to toſſe and bandie with at pleaſure.

Of him to ſpeake more I haue no pleaſure: to ſorrowfull Hylenus and his two children will I returne, ſeuered in three ſundry Barkes, mindefull of all their vowes, mournefull at their infortunate aduenture: to imagine their ſeuerall paſſions paſſeth poore Piers his conceit, the courſe of the ſtory onely will I continue: One winde breathed on each ships ſhrowdes wherein theſe infortunate Princes ſailed: Before Crete they all anchored, where the Maſters of either veſſell compaſſionating their ſorrows, to ſhew ſome kindnes thus deuiſed. Unknowne to either of them they were all in Créte landed, Hylenus himſelfe vpon a plaine ſand, the Continent of the Ile nert neighboring was a pleaſant forreſt: Æmilius was ſet on ſhore at Hydrutum, a Caſtle frontering the ſea: and poore Rhodope ſolde for a bonde woman to an aged fiſherman vppon the Coaſt: This done, they loſed toward Thrace againe to attend Celidon their ambitious Lord.

In Crete at this time was Soueraigne, the vertuous and famous virgin Aeliana, feared and loued not only in the Mediterranean Regions, but in the vtmoſt Eaſt admired. The managing of the Commonwealths affaires were committed by her authoritie to Rhegius her naturall Vnckle: A man for bountie, vertue, and magnanimity, vnequalled with any neighboring Prince. But as in earth there is no perfection without ſome impediment, no beauty without her blemiſh, ruſt fretting the pureſt ſteele, cancker the fineſt ſilver: So this Noble man (otherwiſe for vertue admirable) had giuen the rayne to one vice, which violently haſtned the diſquiet of the Realme, and drue him

headlong to his destruction: and this was it, incestuously he loued vertuous Aeliana, drawen by the admirable wonder of her beauty, yet durst not vtter his affection, he was so damned with remembrance of hir excelling vertue. Now would he begin to write his passions, imitating Phædra when she affirmed,

Dicere quæ puduit, scribere iussit Amor.

then rend those lines, as open scandals to his honour: Sometimes he intended to attempt by force, but that by reason of her Gard he feared: another while he practised to assay by charmes, but those meanes old example had proued vaine: For if neither Medea, circes, no not Apollo himselfe, were able by incantations, hearbes, or spels, to inforce liking where there was no loue, in vaine hee gest his indeuours that way imployed.

Now lastly he determines sometime while shee is a hunting, (in which game Aeliana principally delighted) by some false cry to traine her from her traine, and then in disguise of a sauage seaze on her, and so satisfie his long desired lust and returne vnsuspected to Court. Resolude on this, the very day of Hylenus and his childrens landing, he had intreated the Quæne to a house of pleasure of his in the Forrest, assuring her hee had lodged so Princelike game, as should bee highly to her Highnes contentment.

Aeliana easily consented, and Diana-like shee furnisheth her selfe for that dates sport, on her head she wore a Coronet of orientall Pearle, on it a chaplet of variable flowers perfuming the Ayre with their diuers odors, thence carelesly descended her amber coloured haire, with which the winde wantoning nowe sometime vncouered her frocke of white tissue, anone suffred the same to lye hidde, which then seemed like cleare Isis when Titan descending, casts his golden beames on her siluer coloured streames: her Buskins were richly

richly wrought like the Delphins spangled Cabazines, her Quiuer was of Vnicornes horne, her Darts of yuorie, in one hand shee helde a Boare speare, the other guided her Barbary Jennet, proud by nature, but nowe more proude, in that he carried Natures fairest worke, the Easterne worlds chiefe wonder. O what oyle added these faire ornaments to wretched Rhegius kindled fire, euery minute hee counted a yeare, till they be in the wood, till he possesse his will: But for all his haste, deere fell an accident, that caused some time of more protraction.

On a sodaine from the Forrest edge issued an olde man, his snowy beard couering his breast, his face reuerend, yet repleate with apparant signes of sorrowe, his eyes swolne with teares but lately shed, his countenance cast downe as one disconsolate. On him aboue all other Aeliana cast a gratious eye, and causing him to be called nere, aske if hee were a Cretan or a stranger in that Countrey: I was said he great Princesse, sometime a Samothracian, but now of no Countrey, beeing wrongfully expeld my owne: In Crete and all Countreys a stranger I am to all good fortune, the mappe of discontent, and slaue of misery.

Be not discouraged Father, said Aeliana, the gods of Fortune are as her self fickle, of their happines no man can glory till his ende: It is our vertues that in despite of Fortune will make vs fortunate. Time now will not giue me leaue to make long questioning, but if in Court thou wilt content thée to leade a quiete and contented life, I will immediately prouide for thy ease and safety: If not, bethinke thée spéedily of any other course, and commaunde Aeliana, that vnder the Gods commaundeth Crete: Deny me thou shalt not one of these, for in reuerence of thy Age I will do thée some good, therefore aske whatsoeuer thou wilt, and it shall be graunted.

To

To this Hylenus (for it was hee) replied: By this thy charitie, sacred and sweet Empresse, thou meritest a greater name than either by thy beauty, wisedome, or iustice, though for all and either of these thou art through Europe and Asia famoused: And if old Saganes in this distresse should refuse grace offred from one of so high dignitie, hee were vnworthy to possesse any good: Pleaseth it therefore your Highnesse to appoint mee some solitary mansion, where I may meditate on my follies past, and quietly begge heauens fauour to bee powred on you my Patronesse, I shall be farre happier than euer I was in Court, where I haue too long conuersd.

Aeliana, condiscended to his sute, and sent him presently to a solitary Lodge neere Hydrutum, commanding order to bee taken for his daily prouision. This deede of charity dispatcht, Aeliana, Rhegius, and all their traine enter the Forrest, some chose the Stagge, some the Boare, others the Beare, all as their occasion fitted at first sight of game. They that were appointed for rousing the game, hauing done their diligence, the woods ecchoed with cry of hounds, sounding of horns, and hallowing of hunters. Rhegius was prouided of his sauage sute, and still kept Aeliana company till she had lost all other company, hauing a wilde Boare in chase, which he perceiuing, and knowing his eagernes in pursute, followed so long till hee sawe the wrathfull Boare returne and mortally wounde her Steede, so that Aeliana was forst to leaue him, and with her darts and speare, to offend him, and defend her selfe. While thus the Queene stroue for victory, the Boare for life, raging, fretting, foming, whetting his tuskes on euery tree: Rhegius dessird him to play the counterfet sauage, and the incestuous adulterer: fitted in all points, his face discoloured, his head with shaggy haire couered, his body cloathed in a mossy sute, his

weapon

weapon being a yong Dake, he stily paced to the place where faire Aeliana fiercely contended against this ouerped and ouergrowne swine. There did he vnnaturally beholde his nèece, and vndutifully refuse to ayde his Princesse, nère hand surprised by a mortall and merciles enemy. Her darts were all spent, yet not vainly spent: But as her object enemy was no lesse fierce than the Erimanthian Boare, so her fortune was more lucky than the maids, that among so many valiant hunters drewe first the blood of that beast, which Meleager tooke for himselfe and his Unckles slewe. For Aeliana had firmed thrée dartes in her aduersary, one most annoying him in the groyne, which when hée offred to drawe forth the Princesse with the poynt of her Boare speare (being nowe her last refuge) in the same place made a farre wyder wound: which following with heroicke courage, she buried halfe her staffe in the body of the beast, who beating his wrathfull head against the vnder earth, distained it with some blood, and finally gaue Æliana the glory of the conquest: who sounded the fall, that her followers might heare, giuing heauens glory for her protection, and treading on that heade which lately assailed her with instrumentes of death and terror.

Shee had scarce breathed in this new ioy, but fresh feare presented it selfe: For on a sodaine rushed forth this counterfet sauage, whose first sight the more affrighted her, for that shee was vtterly weaponlesse to make defence: yet when she saw no violence offred by the wilde man, but signs of duty, and manifest showes to conduct her forth of the Forrest, shee offred to drawe forth her speare from the body of the deade Boare, which he espying, roughly laid hold of it himselfe.

The Quéene thinking the sauage had before time binn chased with such flaues, smiled at his feare and let him kéepe the same, and being of vndaunted courage, went

boldly whether he led her, being into the thickest of the wood. There was a spring shaded with trées, and circled with marble, in which artificially were seates framde, naturally furnished with hearbs and flowers: To this spring brought the sauage the Quéne, and eft sones casting himself therein, offered by signes to teach her to do the like, but when he sawe she made no semblance of perceiuing him, he roughly begins to disrobe her royall body, and menacing her with sterne lokes mingled with some strokes, he first puls of her Bugle, which shee had twice sounded, and casting her roughly on the earth, makes open his vile intent to her no little terror. Aeliana thus distrest, cried to heauen for helpe, often called for her followers, oftner on Diana, but most she cried on her Vnkle, inuocating his helpe, that sauagely attempted hir hurt.

We left Aemilius landed at Hydrutum, who inquiring toward the Court, was certified of that royal hunting in the Forrest: who desirous to sée the Countreys fashion, got to the woode side with other of the people that went to haue a sight of Aeliana their Princesse. The time being long that the people attended, Aemilius walked alone into the woode, meditating on the treacherie of Celinus & Celidon, the wrong his aged father himself & Rhodope suffred, inuocating reuenge of heauens, & humbly desiring the destinies to fauour them in méeting either with other before their deaths: Being in this contemplation, hee was vnawares so far in the wood, that which way to returne hee knewe not. The better part of the day he strayed vp & downe, oft times a far off hearing the noyse of hunters, but nere them he had no power to come. Faint he was both with trauell & hunger, beside his sorrowe made him heauy. On the ground he durst not slépe, lest some sauage beast should seaze on him, therefore he climed a trée, in whose toppe when he thought to rest, he scant had closed eyes when he

he eaſily heard a ſmall bugle twice ſound very nere the place: & liſtning again where it ſhould be, he in a while after heard the lamentable ſhrickes of Aeliana, wherewith deſcending the tree, he paſſed through the thickeſt of the couert, ſtil following the voice, till he came where Aeliana with ſtriuing breathles, with weeping ſightles, with crying voyceles, and ſorrowe ſenſeles, lay at the mercy of an inhuman ſauage, who ſhameles of ſin, relentles at her intreats, & ſecure by reaſon of the place, was now ready to diſcouer that hidden beauty, which had ſo long béne deſired by his beaſt-like appetite.

Aemilius no ſoner ſet eye on this ſhame-forgetting Monſter, but he cryed out, Villaine attempt not to deflowre the Nymph, but loke to defend thy ſelfe for thy barbarous aſſailement. Both Rhegius & Aeliana, wer at this ſodaine voice ſeuerally paſſioned, he with feare, ſhe with hope, he ſtarts to his weighty ſtaffe, ſhee liftes vp her weeping eyes, he furiouſly aſſails Aemilius, ſhe feéble, yet feruently impetrates heauens aid for his defence. Aemilius ſhunning ſundry fierce blowes of Rhegius, wounded him with his ſword ſo déep in the arme, that not able to hold his club, & fearing to be diſcouered, he flung the trée from him with violence, the fury wher of while Aemilius ſought to ſhun, Rhegius giuing a great cry, betoók him to his féet: The wood being thick, the ſight of him was ſone loſt, & being doubtful what other company hee had at hande, he left him to comfort the Quéen: who reuiued as it wer from a deadly trance, gazed on Aemilius, imagining him no mortal creature, but ſome celeſtiall power deſcended in her defence: he on the other ſide admired the excellence of her beauty, & by her Coronet of golde that lay not far off, he thought hir no meane perſonage: which inſtantly deſiring to know ſhe immediately reſolude him off: and inquiring of his eſtate and name, he reported himſelfe to be a traueller, borne in Italie, his name he changed not.

With such like parle, they come to the place where the Boare lay slaine, where Aeliana discoursed the manner of his death, which Aemilius heard with no small wonder.

Piers saide corydon, now thou hast ridde vs of this feare, & set Aelianafree, I would wish thee to remember thy selfe, what of thy selfe thou promisedst: Thou hast yet tolde but of one matter, and thy newe entertaignement with another. Reach hither thy bottle that wee may drinke round, I am sure thou must needes bee dry with talking, when I am so a thirst with hearing.

I but said Piers will ye remember me where I leaue in crete, els shall you finde me to oblitious.

I warrant thee said Menalcas, let that bee corydons charge, mine to put thee in minde where thou leftst in Thrace, celydon appointed the people within three daies to hear celinus publikely: they wer thus pacified, & thou entertaind with Flauius the wastful gentleman.

True, true, quoth Piers, now wil I proceed with that. During the three daies, the people were feasted, the Theaters were fild, celydon and celinus rid through the streets, mony was cast in euery corner, the straight laws of Hylenus for execution of iustice repealed, & liberty proclaimed to the people. At the three daies ende, the people were assembled, there celydon in an Oration opened how sorrowful Hylenus was that he had attempted to disinherit celinus his son, & howe in satisfaction, he had giuen him then liberty to take the possessiō therof, betaking himself to solitary life, and committing Aemilius & Rhodope to celinus gouernement, & that it was Hylenus pleasure to haue them accept celinus for their king, & himself his Protector, vnder whom they should liue in that liberty, as for the three daies before they had done: if not, & that they would againe inforce the olde king to receiue his estate, they should bee as of late, subiect to those strict lawes by celinus abrogated.

Then

Then was the choyce put forth: and ſuch deſire had they to liue at libertie, that all the multitude with one voyce cryed out, Liue long Celinus King of Thrace, & honored be Celydon the King and Realmes Protector.

This maygame thus paſt, Celidon ſwaied Thrace, celinus had the kings name, he the ſtate for that which celinus coueted more than anie kingdom, was to liue in licentious pleſure, which now vncontrouled he grédely followed: celydon giuing him the reyne, in hope to raign himſelfe when celinus had ouer-run himſelf.

But in this frolicke Common-wealth, who flaunted it if Flauius were not fine? and if he ſarde well, I muſt nédes ſay hee was no niggard to let others fall. My ſelfe was then mate with my olde maſter. Mate ſaid I? nay I was quarter maſter with my new: for what I miſliked I had libertie to reprowue, marry thys was one good helpe, it ſhould be mended at leaſure.

Beſides me (among other néedleſſe ſeruaunts) my maſter kept a Baylie, as ſure a card as euer man truſted. He perſwaded my maſter to be a non-reſident on his lands, and a remainer at the Court: noting what he ſhould ſpare in houſ-kéeping, ſeruants and ſuch like. He (eaſely induced to follow ſtill the worſt) courted it ſo long, and ſparde it ſo faſt, that the tenaunts, wont to be forborne ſometime a whole yere, now were forſt to pay their yeres rent afore hand. Well, how euer they ſighd to part with it and ſwet to get it, my maſter and his merie companions ſwild it in and ſwore it out, til the cat able to yéld no more than her ſkin, we were faine to follow a new courſe.

Our honeſt Baillie (liuing Lord-like on my Maſters liuing) found meanes to borrowe for him of a freend ſome foure thouſand poundes worth of ware, vppon plaine patone of all his Euidences: and withall thys kindnes he receiued, he paid not a penie intereſt more than was allowable, and the money ſhould be return-

ed by two thousand a yere, each halfe yere a paiment, onely a little consideration to the Broker: who was a yetie pale faced squire, halfe brother to our Baylie, that some two moneths before had set vp a shop in the Cities suburbes, of olde shoes, stockings, and swords, the totall summe of his standing scarce worth fiue shillings eight pence.

This brogging Broker and broking Bally brought my master acquainted with the merchant forsoth (for so they called him) that had these commodities to sell. Hee was a man of meane stature, with a sulphurous face richly beset, his eyes sanguine, his breath strong, his gate stately: for he would scarcely haue gone his owne length in an hower he was so well timbered beneath.

To this money merchant we come, (for other merchandise bled he none, but such as his Broker on a sodaine toke vp, to thrust into their hands that had need of money) sitting he was with a yong woman by hys side: his daughter she was, faire inough though hir father were ill fauoured, and proud inough I am sure she was, as I after proued.

At our first entrance we were entertained by the Broker, next saluted by hir, lastly by him, that after a score of rotten coughes, found leasure to bidde vs welcome. The matter was well knowen, the daughter was to deliuer her fathers minde, being to this effect: That he was verie sorie so worshipfull a Gentleman should want his helpe, and he not able to furnish him to his contentment with readie money: and so shutting it vp in few words, the Scriuener was sent for, my master past ouer his Dædes, and thought himselfe verie highly beholding to the Baylie, that had holpe him away with his lands. On the lenders Daughter hee bestowed a carcanet of golde, craning with her to bee more acquainted.

She that had often bæn the painted flie to angle for ſuch trouts, gaue him kinde woords, and offered hartie welcome, her father confirmd her ſpæch, and the yong nouice my maſter was by his Baylie and the Broker perſwaded to get her for his wife, being her Fathers onely heire, a beauteous Gentlewoman, and ſo forth. That verie day the principall of our ware was ſolde, ſome eight hundred pounds of monie made, and then my maſter was no ſmall fellow agen: we had maſkes reuels, and coſtly deuices, to froliſke with his frends, & court miſtres Vrſula (for ſo was the Vſurers daughter named). Beſides, Celinus was not then of my maſter altogether vnmindfull, but beſtowed vpon him an Office of Cuſtomage, to ſee to the tranſporting of forbidden commodities: which he likewiſe tourned into Angels, and to Petruſio his Baylie made ſodaine ſale of it.

While this money lacked, my maſter neuer minded the remnant of his ware, till the firſt daye of paiment drew on, and by that time the moſt part of it was welnigh worth nothing. Our figs (for we had ſome) were readie to runne about the fraile, our ſilkes had loſt colour, yet had we by ſilkes ſmall loſſe, for we had ſmall ſtore, our pins were ruſtie, the tags of our laces cankered, all our pedlerie ware being in a pitifull plight. On our negligence the Broker layde all the fault, hee could not vtter it (as by all his honeſtie he protefted) to halfe ſo much as the tenth partes profite: and now to bolſter vp Flauius prodigalitie, Piers Plainnes muſt be a Packman.

Should I ſpend time to tell my trauels from faire to faire, my manie ſhort meales, my ſhorter markets, my care to get, my willingnes to ſaue, my weekly account to my maſter, his ſlender reckoning at the quarter, you would thinke I went about to praiſe my ſelfe, and therefore I let it paſſe.

But

But how euer my market went, as it came he spent it, so that at the extreamest day, of a thousand pounds he had scarce ten to pay. Faire words of the father he had, fairer of the daughter: but all was nothing, when paiment failed, Flauius was as sure landlesse, as monilesse. Celinus was sude vnto, but he spent so fast, that now his treasurie was drawen drie: and Celydon by degrées growing greater than hée, curbd him from that waste which he was wont to vse.

My master seeing such cold comfort, sued to Vlpians daughter to stand his frend, but shee was deafe on that side, she could not, nay she would not for al his intreatye, pitie one so wastfull. I was sent to Petrusio the old Bailie & new Customer: where I had good words my selfe, and praise for my honest care of him, that for himselfe toke no care: offer to serue him if I wold, but for my master, no poynt pennie could be got.

With this woefull newes returning backe, Flauius exclaimd against ingratitude, curst euerie cause of hys prodigalitie, cryde out on Fortune, and accusde her ficklenes. Comfort him I could not, hee pacified hee would not: to tel him of his passed riot, was but to aggrauate his greefe: to put him in hope of after good, was past hope, for he had no meanes left for releefe: only a few vaine sutes of apparell, with which I was sent to the Brokers, that scarce serued to satisfie a monthes bare commons.

All pawnd and morgagde, I perswaded my master to trust to his pen, and become some Lawiers Clearke: that was too base, hee swore no small oathes, hee could neither beg nor worke, and longer want he would not. Such advice as I could I gaue him, but all auailed not: for the Broker he sent, and selling him all his odde furniture, onely furnished himselfe with weapons, and to the wide world he would.

The Broker mindfull of my paines when I was a chap-

chapman, earneſtly deſired him to part with my yeres: of which he intending neuer to make profit, eaſely conſented.

A new Maſter, a new, for thus Piers Plainnes hath parted with Prodigalitie, and meanes to learne thrift of Brokerie: a threwd fall, from a Courtly waiter to be a Brokers booke-keper. Well, what remedie: neceſſitie they ſay hath no law: and ſo it ſeemd by mée, for my néede droue mee to liue without lawe, if I had ſaid with an outlaw, I had kept within compaſſe: for beſides my maſter, a number of his myſterie, did not onely deale vnconſcionably without law, but were indéed verie outlawes, banquerupts, what call ye them, or Brokers ſtill let vs call them, for a fitter name I haue not for them.

I ſaw Menalcas ſmile euen now, when I cald Brokerage a myſterie: the terme was not much a miſſe, for there are more myſts vſed therein, than in anie Trade beſide. They couer their craft with charitie, pietie, pitie, neighborhood, friendſhip, equitie, and what not that good is, although in it there be no one poynt of goodnes. But to the purpoſe, I proued a quick ſearcher into this myſterie, and made my maſter miſſe manie of his greedie prayes.

Being ſet to his Booke, and ſéeing the manner of his Bills, I had no other charge but to deale plainly. O tis a fuel to vſe plain dealing among men of that trade. To note the deceit I ſaw there, as changing of pawns, letting other mens garments out to hyre, receiuing of goods by night cloſely, by day ſecretly, were a world to tell, and hardly to bee thought, there ſhould bee in the world people liuing by pilfrie ſo publikely, and ſcape vnpuniſhed. Came they with anie thing worth money, why they were welcome men: welcome, I ſe encouraged to come againe, with promiſe of ſuch ſecrete conueyance, as no ſuſpition ſhould arile.

Once a day we likely had some poore wretches curse or other, for pawnes abuse, or forkets vnduly taken: one notable condition had my good master, among manie bad, and that was this, he pitied poore fellowes destitute of bayle, hee was chiefe pillar to the knights of the post for common bayle and euidence, a notable honest mate in those matters: he would haue suted a three bare slaue in a frocke of damaske, his welted gowne, a seald ring on his thumbe, and euerie appendix able to make a bankrupt bath of welth and honestie seeme like a Burgesse of twelue yeares standing. Neuer was Feates the Iugler like the iugling Broker my master, for he had legions of Familiars to command. What craft would ye haue that he had not? Wanted ye good fellowes to goe among Merchaunts and Gentlemen of accoumt, that (for their pleasures) frequented game: Why he was excellent. Not so few as a dozen Dicemakers had he at his reuersion, that he would furnish in diuers fashions: some in the long locke & little ruffe like Brabanters, some with standing capes and slyced breeches like Danes, some with their beards cut *Alla Turquesa*, their hose hanging lose (like an emptie gut) after the Portugall manner, others Italionate in talk, others in all behauiours Courtlike, striuing to imitate the French.

All these instructed by him, and strengthned by olde Vlpian, essence of Vsurie it selfe, would haue seuered themselues into seuerie companies: and where euer they fell, they made manie light purses and heauie hearts: they had their barres, their flats, their fulmers, their by-men, their low-men, themselues playing euen the hang-men among those men, whose (ill time and hard misfortune made them their luckelesse companions.

Lackt ye a smooth tongd hypocrite to intrap young Gentlemen newly come from the Vniuersitie? hee

was for ye. Wee had a swarme of lyke companions, that shuld haue bin attyred *secundum formam*, and not a word out of their mouths but pure Prisciã. Were they merrie, were they sad, were they wise, were they wanton, he would be sure to fit their humors: and for I could not sweare, for sweare, lye deceiue, and cog, I lost my seruice in manner and forme following, and erected my master to a high degree, as shall appeare by the sequele.

The communitie of the bad indures neuer any long time: so betweene my broking master, and Vlpian the Vsurer it fortuned, that he (like an ill Crowe, hauing hatcht a worse egge) compacted with a notable vnthrift the debter of Vlpian, to cousen the Vsurer of foure thousand crownes, due vpon bonds, by what erronious meanes I know not raisd, but sure I am approued at that time a true debt.

This Ruffler was arrested, first by my maisters diligent paines, and at last released by his double dealing practise. For the youth beeing moneyed, (the duely meane to compasse matters aboue meane) gaue a hundred crownes to my master to procure him bayle. His odde shauers were so well knowen before the Judge, that hardly in a matter of such import was he perswaded of their acceptance: therefore was he very earnest to put me in a sute of satten, compasse my necke with a chaine of golde, and giue mee a name I neuer knewe, being indeed the name of a worshipfull Gentleman: and with another confederate of the forenamed stamp, attyred and trimmed as a Merchant of good worth, we two forsooth must be a good substantiall, and he this Vnthrifts bayle.

I desirde them to vncase me again, protesting I was vtterly out of league with the pillorie: and whether they would or no I discharged my selfe of that deceyuing charge.

But all was one with them, my refusall damped not their deceiptfull and damned resolutions: for they were within an houre of another fitted: scapethrift escape out of prison, Vlpian followd the lute, the Gentleman and Merchant (whose names the craftye byrelings had vsed) by my masters euidence were in law conuicted. Which iniurie comming to my eare, I plainly vttered, discouered the shifters, the innocent were releast, the periurde Broker and his forsworne companions promoted to the pillorie, their eares pared off, their heads crownd with paper, condemnd besides to restitution and imprisonment, their goods solde at open outcrie before all the people that openly cried out against their bad life and diuelish practises. Then scattered all those ill got goods abroad, that by collusion hee had raked together: there was not an old boot left (gotten by brocage) but it was solde to answere for his periurie and cousenage: nay my yeres were sold to satisfie old Vlpian, that commended my plaine dealing in opening his deceipt, to whom he had so manie waies been a deere freend.

And now Piers hauing parted with Flatterie, Prodigalitie and Brokerie, is worshipfully entertained with Vsurie. A seruice of good credite I assure ye, yet such was my destinie, that thinking to hold God by the hand, I toke the diuell by the heele: for where before I euer serud one master, I was now made slaue vnto a mistres and a master, as farre different in nature as in yeares, he so miserable, that he could scarcely affoorde himselfe a meales meate: shee on the other side so delicate, that her curious taste could with no common diet be contented: small birds in precious gellyes concocted were hir ordinarie fare, Partridge was too grose, marie of a Pheasant (if intreated) shee would sometimes feede.

Of her, him, and my selfe *Plura sequuntur*: but

in

in this place lay a straw, all being scant worth a straw, and passing our estates, deale we with state matters. I remember wee left Aeliana refcude from the sauage: her Rescuer and she returnd to her traine, her Vncle sought and not yet founde, Hylenus in a Hermitage, Rhodope with a Fisher-man, whom we meddle not with till it be my destruy to be her fellow prentice: Celinus and his conspiring associate are equall Rulers in Thrace.

The Cretan Quéene, hauing recouered sight of Rhegius her Vncle (who after long search for, at last came with his arme wounded) caused him speedily to be drest, and then discoursed her daungers, her rescue by Aemilius, and euery such particular, willing her Vncle to do Aemilius all due honour for a seruice so excellent. As he was commaunded, he gaue him kind entertainement, though his thoughts farre differed from his words, employing him as well for deliuerie of Aeliana from his hands, as the freshe wounds he then felt, giuen him by Aemilius: But he hid his hate with a smoth loke, making semblante of honourable diage, and so toward the Court they ride. Aeliana noting the semelines of Aemilius beeing mounted, and remembring his valour on foote, entertained newe fires in her vntainted thoughtes which neither moysture nor charmes nor prayers had power to quench: Aemilius on the other side, noting the beauty of the Princesse, her valour, vnwonted in her sexe: her affabilitie not common in personages of such Estate, made theft of his heart for the selfe same fier that inflamed her. Rhegius burning in wrath and lust, serued for a trouble betweene these twaine: and hauing giuen raines to his desires, seeing his last intention take no effect; determined to be as desperate in his suts as he was dissolute in his desire: And thus these three seuerally passioned, holds on their iourney with small conference, till

comming to the Court where a sumptuous feast was prauided, Aeliana before the intended my pleasure, either priuate or publike, in the presence of his Nobles, gaue Aemilius the order of knighthode, with offer of entertainement into her seruice, if hee pleased to remaine in Creete: Which hee gratefully refused.

Then with delectable sounds of diuers sorts the Pallace resounded and the tables were furnished with Princely seruice: to describe the feasts and bankets, were but to present ye with Tantalds foode, making show of that you see is no substance, enough to famish one that were fasting, & cause a cullis to make to surfet. Will suppose it such as beseemes a Princes state, the most table talke being of Aeliana her Combate with the Boare, her danger by the Sauage, and Aemilius fortunate rescue. Of Aemilius, Aeliana neuer heard inough: Supper ended, Maskes, playes, and other pastimes passed, the Princesse in her priuate Closet, thus complaines of loue, and praiseth Fortune.

Aeliana what new fires are these kindled in thy bosome? what sodaine changes, what vnwonted passions hast thou thus long offered olive boughs to Pallas, and wilt thou now present Venus with myrtle branches? hast thou followed Diana ouer the Lawnds with exercise, and wilt thou prone the follower of her aduersary by idlenes? No Aeliana, extinguish these fond loues with minds labour, and vtter thy affections in the blowne, that they may neuer bee of power to budde.

But Aeliana it is Aemilius thou thinkest louely as Adonis, couragious as Peleus, vertuous (if the eye be the minders true glasse) as Admetus, then why should not Aeliana desire to be his Venus, delight to be his Thetis, and die to do him good as did Alceste. Staie Aeliana, bridle these affections, remember thy estate and his staylesse course: suppose hee had infinite more perfec-

ous than possibly thou canst yet perceiue: yet hee is a stranger, to thee vnknowne, and as ouerrunne of Antimonium, corrupteth a vessell of the purest wine, so one defect may staine the glory of all other his perfections: Aeneas was wise, Iason valiant, Demophoon louely, but three infectum: Queene of Carthage: Thessaly, and Thrace, found them as thou mayst do this, bereauers of their honours, deceiuers of their hopes, and betrayers of their liues: Loue Aemilius is young, and hath not yet learned to dissemble: but he is an Italian Aeliana, who sucke pollicie from the teate, and learne beeing little ones to loue. Fie on this spite that doth increase my fire, Aeliana loueth Aemilius woone by his desart, and cannot ende this affection but by hir owne death.

But what will Rhegius and the Nobles of Crete say: that Aeliana shoulde so forget hir selfe, to affect a stranger, his parentage vnknown, vnacquainted with his behauiour, perhaps for some crime banished: Why if they shoulde, am not I sole soueraigne of Crete, able to make him Lord of the fee, borne, allow him to my kindred, and hyde out the blemish of any conceited crime.

But if they oppose themselues what then: Bannishing Aemilius from Crete, from Aelianaes company: Well may they banish him from Crete, but woulde he vouchsafe of Aelianaes company, him would she follow to the vtmost India, to the burning Zone, to the frozen Pole, to the depth of death.

But what if hee proue Theseus, and leaue her as Ariadne in some vnhaunted desert: Away with these fond doubts, Aemilius is not so obdurate, hee that in a desert deliuered me from death, will neuer in a desert leaue mee desolate: The aforenamed forlakers neuer made show of affect but in wordes onely, this discouered his affection first by workes.

Fie Aeliana, what maddyng passion possesseth thee? suppose he were constant, Noble, and a Cretan, that thy Pares and people loude him as thy selfe: what reason hast thou of his affection to bee perswaded? Perchaunce thou imagynest, seeing thy beauty hath caused the Rhodian Gouernour, the kings of Sicilie and Cyprus to sollicite the of loue, Aemilius will be easily intangled: or in regard of thy Princely state, thinke himselfe happy to be thy kingly husband: No fond Princesse, the whole earth was scarce not to rich to Aemilius, for true vertue holdeth kingdomes contemptible. Well, how euer loue dealetyrant-like, I will honour Fortune, that left not Aeliana in distresse, but sent Aemilius to be my deliuerer: Of whose loue were I assured, than were I more than fortunate.

With such speches passed Aeliana ouer her passion, resoluing to loue or not to line.

Aemilius likewise being solitary, thus participated his sorrowe to the silent night: Blacke shrowde of griefe (sayth he) the Outlawes day, Nurse of silence, secure shadow for the fearefull, let me acquaint thy stilnes with my hearts sting, being otherwise so haples as I haue no friend els, in whose bosome I may vnloade my griefe. Froward change onely to me, in ill changing forward, hinder of my rest, bereauer of my hopes, when wilt thou leaue to obserue truth in my torment, and falshood in my felicitie? If my euill starres vrge these euents, sweete Night bee thou intreated neuer to giue place to day, till my vnlucky lights be pourd as gelly on the earth. Poore Aemilius, exilde from Thrace, in Crete captiude, my brother forcing the one, beauty constraining the other: By the first thou wert seperated from thy father and sister, by the last bereft of thy wonted senses. Winde, seas, saylers, conspirators of my sorrow, that haue brought Aemilius to this haples harbor, where hee beholdes with desperate

soules

ſoules the felicitie of Angels, and is deſperate of the fruition.

Aeliana center of all my ioy, diuineſt beauties eſſence, light of my ſoule, my liues load-ſtarre, how miſerable am I to ſée thée placed in ſo high a ſpheare, my ſelfe detected into ſo lowe a clyme: Thou moſt happy, I moſt haples, I a ſlaue, thou a ſoueraigne.

Why exclaimſt thou Aemillus thus againſt Fortune and Deſteny? It is loue that makes thy caſe deſperate: that robber of reſt, bereauer of ſenſe, hee hath conſpired in thy extreamity to make thy miſery more than extreame. What fole painted thee blinde, that art thus sharpe ſighted, able to wound concealed harts? or rather what fole am I that confirme thée not blinde both of ſenſe and ſight, ſéeing thou ſéekſt to vnite harts ſo farre different? So dealeſt thou with thy mother, with Sapho, with Cornelia? But ſome comfort were it knewe I thou hadſt aſſailed Aeliana ſo. Immortall powers why doate I ſo? Shée that hath refuſed all the Princes th'Iſlands of the middle earth, can I thinke loue hath any ſuch power to enforce hir ſo ſauele mée. Fooliſhly, for the Diana that leades loue fettered, and placing him as her vaſſaile where ſhe pleaſe, darts from her eyes his fire. But comfort thy ſelfe Aemilius, ſhe hath vouchſafed to be thy Princely Patrix, namde thée her Knight, enioind thée ſeruice in hir Court: theſe preſumptions of farther fauour. I, that riſes from hir Princely bounty to requite thy trauell in hir reſcue, no colour of hope that as a louer ſhee will regard thée: but as ſhee hath beautified thy pore eſtate with rich ornaments and honorable tytles, ſo for thy ouerdaring ſhe will cauſe thy Plumes to be pild, and thou maiſt appear naked like Aeſops Crow.

Therefore Aemilius be circumſpect, thou art here a ſtranger, and on thy behauiour will each eye be fixt. Follow a while thy fortunes, if deſteny haue ordai-

ned thee happines, nowe hope the best, if markt thée to miserie, ineuitable are their dooms, and better thou iwert to dye where thou louest, than liue where thou art loathed.

This while Rhegius toke small rest, but was sundry waies perplexed in his minde, sometimes blaming his vnlawfull lust, another while exclaiming against his euill lucke: sometimes intreating heauens to giue him power to desist his sute, againe impetrating ayde of hell to persist in his enterprise.

The last determination and the worst continued longest, and furnishing himselfe with sundry examples of most vnnaturall and preposterous loues, he left his chamber, and euen when day begame to chase nights cloudes from hindering the morninges beauty, Rhegius vnder colour of most vrgent and serious affaires, came towarde Aelianaes Chamber, that then was singing a Dittie whilst thrée of hir Ladies with rare musique both of voyce and Instrument, kept true time with their Empresse, Carroling an vnderlong at each stanzoes ende.

Rhegius rauished with this Angelique Harmonie, staide at the Chamber dooze to heare the remaine of Aelianaes Dittie, for euen then all their voyces were like a Quiere of Nightingales chanting on this note:

Quickly striue the Boy to binde,
Feare him not for hee is blinde:
If hee get loose hee showes no pittie.

Aeliana then beganne the last Stanzo alone (as thé had donye all the rest) in this sort.

Trust

Truſt not his wanton teares,
leſt they beguile yee:
Truſt not his childiſh ſight,
he breatheth ſillie.
Truſt not his tutch,
his feeling may defile yee,
Truſt nothing that hee doth,
the Wagge is wilie.
If you ſuffer him to prate,
You will rue it ouer late:
Be ware of him for hee is wittie.
Quickly ſtriue the Boy to binde,
Feare him not for hee is blinde:
If hee get looſe hee ſhowes no pittie.

With this the muſique ceaſt, and Aeliana was about to diſcourſe ſomewhat of that ſubiect whereon her ſong was grounded; when ſodainely Rhegius deſired to enter the Chamber, whether when hee was admitted, hee certified the Queene that hee had ſerious affaires to conferre with her of, whereupon ſhee commaunded hir Ladies to anoyde: Attending when hir Vncle would beginne to ſpeake, who three times offered, and three times was ſtroken ſilent, ſtanding as it were in a traunce: vntill Aeliana had thus reuiued him.

Deare Vncle, on whoſe weale conſiſtes the welfare of our Perſon: and by whoſe wiſedome our Eſtate is warely guided, tell me (for I long to knowe) what great important cauſe concerning the State or other affaires, vrgeth this early approach, and ſodaine alteration.

Why are ye thus silent, your looks detected, your face bloodles? Are there confederacies towarde of forren Princes, or conspiracies of home-bred Traytors? Haue the Gods showen intentions of wrath by some prodigious signe, or haue our Priests opened any insuing euills by vnluckie Augurie? If either of the first, let power bee gathered to preuent, if any of the last, doubt not by prayer but we shall preuaile: Onely let your Honour showe the cause, and our dilligence shall indeuour for some good course.

Rhegius reuiued by her swéte voyce, begaune to gather his spirites together, when shame companion of sinne tainted his pale chéekes with vermillion colour. Offring to speake hee sighd, and windy sighes giuing way to words, hee mingled his stormy spæch with showres of teares, that fell not fruitles, but enforst from Aeliana such compassion, that when againe shee woulde haue prgde him to procéde, the vttrance of hir wordes were stopped with the abounda nt water that fell from hir eyes, vntill Rhegius thus brake forth.

Ceale Princely Cousin these sadde teares, and sorrowe not for my lament, no way by griefe able to be lessened. Onely cleare this heauen of beauty, and let no dimme clowds of discontent obscure that brightnes, wherein consorteth no small portion of the diuine essence, and abides the chiefe part of my earthly being. Aeliana, Cretes Empresse, Goddesse of my hart, if euer Rhegius merited of thée kinde fauour for his faithfull seruice, grant him one boone easie for thée to grant, which graunt will giue thy wretched Cuckle life, thy denial marke him for the forme of death.

Wonder not faire Quéene to sée my countenance thus often chaunged, for nowe pale feare benummeth my feeble heart, anone redde shame taynteth my blushing chéekes: Lastly, Loue forces me thus to answere.

Beasts

Beasts entrailes haue shewn vnto Priests no vnlucky signe, the heauens no prodigies, the Cretans are not rebellious, neither are the neighbring Kingdomes enuious: onely Rhegius inward soule is staind with conceipt of sinne, his thoughts prodigious, his hart rebellious, his minde enuious. Of which enuie, rebellion, prepostrous and impure sinne, Loue is onely originall: whose fires haue kindled contracte thoughts in wretched Rhegius, such as himselfe shames to vtter, such as I see your Highnes blush to conceiue.

Herewith Arliana stepped backe, and Phoebe-like (when Cadmus nephew beheld her naked in the fountaine) shee frowned on Rhegius, who taking her by the hand, intreated her a while to heare patiently, what Loue compeld him vtter.

Cease, cease said Arliana, let not the glorie of thy worthie gouernment, be dimd with this lustful sinnefluous practise. Thy change of passion assures me this is not done to trie me: but to-too-surely I perceiue by thy troubled lokes, thou hast giuen libertie to vnbridled appetite: which on thy allegeance I charge thee to desist, or I will exterminate thy lawles loue, by vntimely death.

At the name of death, Rhegius smiled, and saide, that is the period indeed of my lament. More happie is this life to me than anie death can be. Could be those lawes that binde men from that which Nature denyeth not to beasts. The light foote Roe is conuersaunt with his Dumme, the Birde billeth with those of the same neast, the Dolphin wantonneth with fish of the same species: what men haue inuented burthens on men which neither they themselues, nor their fathers before them could keepe. Myrrha loued her father, Byblis her brother: this in the worlds eye was prepostrous, to Nature not abhorring, to loue agreeing: why shoulde not Loue and Nature then commaund Lawe, seeing

from the m Law onely holdes hir theſe poſitions. Suppoſe it were not thus, but thoſe bounds of Law, were from pure Loue, and vnſpotted Nature deriued: what then? Affection blindly indgeth, and will neyther bee by reaſon reſtrained, nor by extremitie bridled. Your Highnes threatens me with death: heere is my naked breaſt, make me bleſſed by that doome, I beſeech you. Pierce this boſome, and let forth my conſpiring ſpirit: pull out theſe laſcinious eyes, betrayers of my yelded heart: and ſacrifice my luſt-burning bodie, before the altare of your diuine beautie: other reſtraint for Rhegius or reſt for your Excellence can none be found, my paſſions are ſo ouer-daring fond.

Aciana pitying his extreames, and ſeeing that her ſharpe denial made him almoſt deſperate, ſhee tooke him vp from the ground (whereon he kneeled) and thus comforted him.

Noble Vncle, ſeeing outragious luſt hath clowded the precious vertues of your minde: and that I ſee yee ſo giuen ouer to your laſe deſires, that you neglect regard of honour, and feare of death, ſeeking to violate chaſtitie, whoſe royaltie you ſhould defend: that I may giue ſome eaſe to your greefe, (ſtanding with the pleaſure of the heauens, our dignitie, and your account) I firſt pardon what in theſe caſes hath paſſed, and vowe my ſelfe euer readie to miniſter you Princely comfort, my ſelfe will daylie viſite you, walke with ye, conferre with ye, reaſon againſt your vnreaſonable loue, perſwade yee to honourable thoughts, diſſwade yee from theſe diſſolute determinations.

If you be ſicke, I will be your Phiſition: if ſaynt your comforter: if froward (as at this time ye ſeeme) your counſeller: onely learne by degrees to cure theſe humours, that (ſuffered) will with a head-long furie obſcure the former brightnes of your vertues, and ſubuert our eſtate.

Time will change (I doubt not) your diſſolute in-
tent, and make you (as of old) reſolute in doing well.
Come ſweete Winckle, be comforted, and in all things
that modeſtie will permit, Aeliana that is borne thy
Soueraigne, will endeuour herſelfe to bee thy Hand-
maid.

Rhegius (ouercome with theſe ſweete ſpéeches) be-
gan to be more aſhamed of his laſe attempt, than hee
was before earneſt to proſecute it: but ſome that moti-
on fayled, and he returning to his vomit, toke aduan-
tage of the Princes offer, and intended if he once ſeazd
on her againe, not to be preuented, reſoluing that vi ſi
non verbis ſhe ſhould be wonne.

But he couered his hatefull intention with a ſmoth-
ed brow, awayting his time till he could drawe the in-
nocent Princeſſe within his power. And ſo with infi-
nite thankes, promiſing to endeuour himſelfe to bridle
his paſſions, and craning pardon for his vndecent pre-
ſumption, they parted, ſhe to her meditation of Aemi-
lius perfections, hee to practiſe ſome plot for their de-
ſtructions.

All this while we haue forgot the old King, liuing in
his ſolitarie cell, whoſe proportion of reſt to him was
more pleaſing in that ſolitude, than in the frequent cõ-
panies at his Court. And becauſe we will not diſturb
his contemplation, we only curſorily paſſe by, for that
we are faſt to poaſt by, and ſeeke for paſſage ouer into
Thrace, where all things (like an vnmundified vlcer)
feſtred inwardly, though outwardly there appeared a
cloaked ſhaddow and painted ſhow of ciuill and honeſt
gouernment.

Celinus onely attends laſciuious companies, Cely-
don intends to appropriate to himſelfe the dignitie and
become ſoale Soueraigne, awayting onely opportu-
nitie to effect in act what he had long conceiued, euen the
laſt ſceene of Celinus Tragedie.

While

Wihile thus the one priuely practised to win, the other publiquely endeuoured to lose, euerie mans feare foretold insuing mischiefe. And as the Ocean ceaseth not to boyle against a tempest, till high billowes make rough smoth waters: so the disturbed imaginations of mens braines, produced variable mutterings: some vttering their feares, others their affectation: euerie one like a Sphinx deliuering his opinion doubtfullye, fearfull least some Oedipus would expound it too plainly.

During the time the Court and Common-wealth were thus troubled, I trust ye thinke not Piers Plainnes so ill a husband to be idle: for in my maisters house we kept the essence of the one, and image of the other. For as in the Court were two Kings, so had wee two commaunders: videlicet Vlpian my miserable maister, and Vrsula my lasciuious mistres. Wonder not to heare, that riot should keepe house with wretchednes: for such is the pleasure of the heauens, that one iniquitie should consume another, commonly ill-getting fathers hauing lose spending children, verifiing the olde approued prouerbe, [illegible]. If when I heard flatterie my soule were afflicted to heare his swthing lyes: when Prodigalitie, my hart grieued to see his lasciuious waste: when Wrokerie, my eyes mainedd to be witnes to so great extortion: here had I occasion all at once of eyes mourning, harts grieuing, and soules affliction. O miserable condition of couetous parents, and desperate resolution of riotous children: the first wearying out it selfe vnmoderately to get: the last tyring out it selfe with insatiate desire to spend. But why digress I? Why doe I not (declining bounds me in a limit) to with my pen indeed I do end my discourse. Vlpian my maister (whose sparing lyes not Niggardize herselfe can well expresse) left he hed Vrsula his daughter as a properetie [illegible]

Gentlemen, as hee had earſt done Flauius: yet would grudge at anie money he parted with to maintaine her in fit eſtate, either for diet or apparell to entertain ſuch, as in hope to bee heires of Vlpians treaſure, dailye repaired to their deſtruction. She on the other ſide, I muſt needes ſay, (as ſuch kinde creatures be) was kind harted inough, and when ſhe could haue met with his coffers, ſhe was no leſſe lauiſh of his bags, than looſe of her behauiour. For her part, ſhee was a right Anabaptiſt, all things were with her, and ſhee with euerie one in common.

When firſt ſhe thus attempted by pilfrie to breake into his ill purchaſe, and hee eſpied the decreaſe of his beloued crownes: Furie it ſelfe was not ſo furious. Ne hee tormented to acknowledge my ſelfe an acceſſarie, and for her part (Ile be her witnes) ſhe was handled as a principall. For when at my handes nothing could bee gotten, (becauſe I was ignorant of all) hee toke vpon him to diſple his Daughter, and neuer left ſcourging till ſhe plaid one part of a true penitenciary, and made open confeſſion, marrie reſtitution ſhe could not otherwiſe make, but with promiſe to couſen for him as manie Gentlemen as ſhe might. For want of other ſecuritie, he was glad to take her word for a bond, and ſo for a month or two the caſe was wonderouſly altred, for while her woundes were healing, wee kept a long Lent. To deſcribe our diet, were inough to fill all the Countrie with a dearth: with remembrance thereof, Famine it ſelf hath ſeazed on me, and except I here feed I can proceed no farther.

Pitie it were (quoth Corydon) thou ſhouldeſt now faint. Menalcas, reach hether thy ſcrip, my bag is emptie: here's wine inough, and there's a part of a roaſted kid, either of power to reuiue thy fainting ſpirites, and refreſh thy tyred ſenſes. Menalcas drinke to him, and proue a better maſter than this Vlpian, of whoſe ſeruice

thy ſeruant now intreates. Here Piers ſaid Menalcas drinke well, and after thy refreſhing, goe forward.

I marry quoth Piers, the Sailer and Souldier are happie, that in the quiet hauen or other ſecure harbour may diſcourſe the eſcaped daungers on ſea and in field: therefore (with a full ſtomacke) I will (as merely as I may) deſcribe the daylie proportion of our hungrie fare.

The day no ſooner appeared, but Piers poaſted to the Potticaries for oyntment to recouer Vrſulas ſore ſhin to the wonted ſoundnes: and by then I returned, olde Vlpian my maſter was readie to riſe, and read a lecture of thrift to me and her: other breakfaſt had wee none. At dinner my allowaunce was two Anchoues, ſheere water my drinke: and at night drie ryce (or rather rye bread) my beſt repaſt: my maſter pretending a ſolemn Faſt, till Vrſula were recouered, without whoſe helth he aſſured me our commons muſt nedes faile, for that ſhe was the common vpholder of the houſe: for praier indeede we had no Iniunction, yet made he daylie execrable Orizons honouring gold as the cheefeſt god, and one day it was my chance to heare the ground of his deuotion.

Being entred his ſtudie, and opening his coffers, he vttered the intention of his ſoule in theſe tearmes: O gold, adored gold, my ſoules cheefe ſoueraigne, my liues beſt Genius, for whom the needy vaſſaile toyles, the Souldier fights, the Scholler ſtudieth, holy deuoth thy diuine eſſence comfort my troubled ſpirite, againſt whoſe opulencie the enuious beggers of the earth repine. O bee thou reſident with me in ſpite of all their rage: for where thou art there enuy cannot hurt. Cloſe vp my ſenſes from all other thoughts than of thy exſtence: A little Grammer learning I haue, and were it no more than to holde thee faſt it were ſufficient: for what account are Schollers made of, or Friendes or

Gods, without golden Oratorie, giuing frendship, or all-yelding Deitie.

Then my religion, frend, Art, all I haue, to thee I sacrifice my selfe: without whose presence I am not my selfe: in thee alone remaines Beatitude, without thee know I no blessednes.

These and the like were my Makers daylie innocations, his exercise was turning ouer money, and searching euerie corner of the house least some thinge wer hid. During Vrsulas sicknes, or rather sorenes we had no great resort, but vpon her recouerie wee had open proclimation for dayes of Iubile. She like a gratious Childe remembring her late greefe, in stede of sorrowe for her Fathers wrong, practisde of her owne iniurie to be wreakt: euen she makes the instrument of her reuenge being altogether ignorant of his course; My old Maker Flauius driuen to the extreamest exigent of want she sends me to, protesting she would in some measure onely releeue his need, not acquainting me with any other intent. To be briefe they met, and thus conspirde, that Flauius should to Celsus, and accuse her Father for clipping of gold, which according to the law of Thrace was hie treason, her onely desire was to bee the happie possessor of his possessions and goods, of all which she would put Flauius in possession by her marriage. The first parte of her deuice take effect, Flauius accused Vlpian, our house was searcht, the clippings found, his iudgment followed, and Vlpians execution was not farre behinde, whereto with notable acclamation of the people he was brought. In stede of penitence hee died desperate hauing lined detestablie, cursing his daughter execrablie, and blessing the beholders with his goutie heeles, deliuered himselfe ouer to the hangmans mercie. Here ends the tragedie of true Auarice, a worde or two of Vrsula and Flauius.

Contrarie to their expectation, the goods of Vlpian were seazd on to Celinus vse, and she nakedly tourned forth as the betraier of her father: whom (in distresse) Flauius refusde, the Court scorned, the Citie iested at. Being idly brought vp, she could no way indeuour her selfe to helpe her selfe, and so in fine miserably died. My selfe (as a moueable) was solde, and Flauius *quondam* Baylie the Customer became my maister.

A bodie would think I had bẽn where deceit inough before had bẽn: but to this all my passed life was sanctimonie. In euerie other place I saw deceipt, & shund it: but here I was a daily deceiuer, & could scarce see it. Well, ere I goe forward with what I there did, let vs see what hapned at Court.

Celydon (as I before said) onely awaited occasion to quarrell with Celinus, and now vppon partition of olde Vlpians goods, the long hid fier brake into flame. Celinus had the goods in possession, and because they were of great worth was loath to leaue them. Celydon (on the other side) pretended to haue them deliuered into the Common Treasurie: but that was by Celinus to the publique officers denied. Whereupon Celydon armed himselfe, and with a multitude of souldiers beset the Pallace and Counsell-house: whereinto entring, he thus inueighed against Celinus.

Lords of Thrace, dismay not that Celydon enters armed amongst these reuerend Senators: for no slight cause hath hetherto vrged me, but the preseruation of your ancient Honors, and the good of this wealpublike, I know it is not vnknowen to all of you, with what zealous care I haue laboured to vphold this misgouerned estate, of which Celinus hath endeuoured to worke the downfall. If I should be silent, your selues are to me testimonies, hauing giuen me more honor, than either I deserue or expect.

But neyther may my cares nor your endeuours pre-

preuaile, so long as this vnbrideled Gentleman Celinus is suffered to ouerrule what we determine. Should I but vrge a secrete long from your knowledge concealed, howe euer by your wisedomes suspected, I should giue you more occasion to detest his vnnaturall euill, than yet you haue had to inueigh against his vnbrideled life, wherein what ill hath not bene prosecuted, that corruption could inuent, or wickednes enact. I meane the treacherous exile of our Lord Hylenus and his children, whose vertues by how much they were greatly to our auaile, Celinus vices are to be held more vile: seeing the vertuous father by the vicious sonne, the harmles brother and sister by their hatefull and hurtfull brother, are banished we knowe not whether, or murdred we know not howe. But here it may bee to my selfe it will bee obiected, that long since Celinus had for vsurping bene punished, had not Celydon supported him. I graunt graue fathers this is true, whereby it may be, some will inferre, I was a principall in this conspiracie. But that part I deny. For vtterly without my knowledge was our King and his children exiled, Celinus backt with riotous companies, the people tumultuously gathred on heapes, when fearefull of ciuill mutiny, I yelded to the times as likewise you all did, and swore to vphold Celinus left in the contentiō the whole people shoulde haue perished. Nowe that wee are of power, requisit it is to reuenge royall Hylenus wrōgs, our owne wrongs, the peoples iniuries: seeing he hath not onely expulsed his father from his estate, but in a manner ruined the whole State. For which of your wiues or daughters are priuiledged from his lust? who of you are owners of your owne wealth, but subiect to his lasciuious depastation? Now is the time, and here is the effect of the prescription drawne. See not abasht graue fathers, Nero, Phalaris, diuers Kings and Emperours, haue for misgouernement not onely bene de-

poled but also put to death: they beeing true Princes, Celinus an vsurper. He is now carowsing among his riotous Caualiers, or wantoning with his Concubines, if you will shew your selues worthy the name of Thracians, of Senators, of men, subscribe to this prescription, my bands of armed souldiers are ready to execute the vsurper: if you delay, my selfe will take vpon me the glory of this action to your perpetuall reproche, and immortall indignities. When hee had thus spoken, with a frowning countenance hee awayted their answere: Who seeing into the drift of Celydon, and noting the power he had at that time, suppressed the fulnes of their conceite, and consented to subscribe to the prescription.

Whereto they had no sooner signed, but Celydon with his power went into the market place, and there in the publique iudgement seate accused Celinus of the foresaid crimes, exasperating against him all malitious indignities done vnto his father, his brother, and sister, and all other his misdemeanors: Where with he drew forth the prescription signed with the Senates handes, and demaunded of them if they woulde giue their voyce.

The people confusedly cryed out, let Celinus the traytor be drawen forth to death: Then ran the multitude headlonglye to Celinus Pallace, who being taken at vnawares, made head against them with such power as he had, but being a troup of lose persons, for no other attended his traine, hee and they were sone discomfited.

The Assistaunts were in a manner numberlesse, they re cryes confused and tumultuous, so that Celinus could neither speake to make ereuse, nor had power to make resist.

Wherefore withdrawing himselfe hee escaped thorough a vault into the woodlopning to the Pallace,

who

who was no ſoner miſt, but his followers yelded to the mercie of Celydon, who cauſed diuers to bee tormented, to confeſſe where Celinus was: what was become of him there coulde not any tell, ſo the moares were dragde, thinking hee had deſperately caſt himſelfe in, and then the ſecrete daukes were founde, but Celinus could not be found, neither ſhall yee heare anie more of him, till it bee my owne good hap to finde him.

Returne to Celydon, who with the furious multitude vtterly raced the pallace of Celinus, and without pittie cruelly murdered and inhumanely maſſacred his concubine and aſſociates, among whom fell both Thraſilio and Flauius: the one for an vnthrift, the other for a flatterer that had not their fellowes in all Thrace.

Whyle in this manner Celydon inſulted ouer Celinus miſerable eſtate, and breathed threatenings againſt all his other vntaken Fauourites, proclayming high méede to anie one that brought Celinus either quicke or dead, and threatning ſharpe death, and confiſcation of goods, to euerie one that ſuccoured him: the Senatours by aduiſe of an eloquent Orator, and reuerent Counſeller named Licoſtenes, had thus decréed, that ſéeing Celydon was culpable of ſelfe treaſon with Celinus, as ſone as his bandes of Souldiers were diſſolued, he ſhould bee publiquely executed in ſuch manner as for Celinus himſelfe ordained, and that they would preſently diſpatch meſſengers to all neighbuyng Nations, if happely they might heare of Hylenus and his children.

This they determined with all poſſible ſpéede to effect, while Celydon (nothing of their intent ſuſpecting) left not the ruinating of Celinus Pallayce, and tormenting his ſeruants, till nightes darkneſſe denied them meanes to execute farther their malice.

But

But Celydon thinking himselfe nothing safe till Celinus wer surprised, discharged not as yet his bands of selders, but sent spady messengers to lay the Ports about Hebrus, and companies to search the forrest of Hemus and the wates to the nert Prounces adioyning: but especially the Ports hee suspected, and to the haun where my Master was Custome, at once came Proclamation and commission, that who so euer harbored Celinus shoulde immediately as traytors bee executed, and he that brought him forth should receiue a thousand Crowns. Celinus destiny was such to happen to that Port, and for that he presumed he had some interest in my Master, as well for helping him to the Office, as also for smothering many of his offences, in transporting forbidden commodities: and sering wee are here, touch the faults we wil a litle that my Master the Custome vsed, and let slip the matter a while of Celinus handling. First, in the first part of this discourse you vnderstood he was Flauius Bally, a deceiuer of his Master, and now is Bally for the King, and doth his best to vndo the Countrey. Hee was a Vsurer, a Broker, a Farmer, and what not in that place: Corne, leather, mettall, any forbidden commodities, might passe if he were paid, spices vngarbled, letters close packed, fugitiues, outlawes, any thing, powder, ordinance, artillery, so they paide him privy custome. A sort of bankerupt Brokers wer his retainers, that at the landing of any merchant straunger, conferred either to commende others credite, thereby to take into their handes their whole commodities: And when dates of payment comes, the merchant hath no other helpe of them, but we are sory, and would haue sworne their credits had beene such and such. When like deceiuing cousoners they share quarters, and my Master for countenancing their knaueries had his halfe part. Among other deceites, for transporting of vittels, this plaine guile hee

suffered,

suffered, when vessels were bound forth, three times more than due proportion hee let passe, under colour to serue the voyage: but without hee were paid nothing could passe, and then they might passe and repasse without controll. What though the garbler cryed out, his bales were wasted, the Commons the corne was transported, euery one of wrong, so he had the right he lookt for, all was well: for in all these wrongs Celinus was his supporter. Now came the time of triall, whether the ill seruant would proue true to his bad master. Celinus (in the dead of night) gets to our house, tells my master his estate, and requires to be transported. He was no sooner entred, but the towne was priuily raisd: yet Petrusio vsed great protestations for his assuraunce. Celinus (notwithstanding their many e oathes) liked not his lookes, and in the end by priuie whisprings, and rustling of armed men without, was sure of his deceit: but remembring Petrusio to be notably couetous, he thus dallyed with him.

Petrusio, how I haue preferd thee thou knowst, and how thou louest me I am assured: yet that I may make thee more beholding, I will vtter one secrete ere I take shipping, that shall bind thee to me aboue all other kindnesses. How euer I haue seemed to liue secure, yet against this expected daye of my downefall haue I not been altogether improuident, but secretely haue hidd in two hundred thousand crownes: one half I make thee master of, the other I intreate thee (as thou hast found me louing) to conuay me when I shall write to thee frō anie forren coast. Do this Petrusio, and be now more enriched, and if against Fortune fauour me, looke to bee most fortunate. Vnworthie am I (quoth Petrusio) to obtaine this fauor, and as I proue to your Highnes faithfull, let my fortunes bee successfull: onely resolue your seruant where the treasure is. First said Celinus bring me to Ship, I am els in this case resolued to bee

euer silent. Petrusio not willing to lose this pray, pretended to goe cléere the Key, and leauing him, went to the Officers, assuring them the prisner was safe, & for speciall matter concerning the State, must bee carried secretly aboord a Barke, that anchored before the Harborto bring him thether himself vndertooke the charge, and appointed a hundred well armed to goe before vnto the Barke, giuing them a watch-woord when they should apprehend Celinus: the rest of the People to auoyd tumult he discharged. They counting him the forman of the parish, brake vp the Watch, and obeyed his words: and Petrusio returning to Celinus, brought him to a Cocke boate, and me he appointed for the waterman.

But here the case begins to alter. Wee were no sooner in the midst of the Riuer, but Celinus taking my master by the throate, vsed these terames. Petrusio, I know thée for a villaine, and am assured of thy notable intention to betray me. What thou hast, my gift hath holpe thée to, thy goods are mine borrowed, thy life to my seruice vowed: yet for all this, my misgiuing heart compels me to mistrust thy constancie. Vse no words, for they are talke like thy faultie life: no oathes, for they are more deceiuing than thy words: no teares, for they haue learned trecherie of either: only in death will I beléeue thée: and with that giuing him a mortal wound, he beaude him ouer board, and kept to me saying, Pesant exclaime not, for if thou do thy life is lost, and with this miserable wretch thou shalt in death consort. Be firme to me, and as I am a Gentleman, I will preserue thy life, and vse thée well.

I that was acquainted with Petrusioes trecherie, pitying his youth, remembring his royall progenie, & in plaine tearmes fearing my owne tragedie, quickly resolued to prouide for his escape, and embracing certain danger to auoyd present feare, we put out into the déepest

peſt of the maine, yet not ſo ſecretly but they in the Barke eſpied vs, and ſetting out their owne and other veſſells boates to bring vs vnder their lee, had ſurely taken vs, had not the Guider of the Windes (furthering our flight) let loſe their ragefull breathings, that ſcattred the Pen of warre, whoſe boates purſued vs: the billowes prowdly mounting their vpper deckes, made them more carefull to attend their owne ſaftie, than intend our purſute. And if they in veſſels of great burden were diſtreſſed, we then that had onely a boate could not but be greatly endangered.

Let vs ſhift with the ſtorme awhile, and ſee what ſorted that night to Celydon.

Licoſthenes (before named) hauing aſſembled al the chiefe Senators, ſent for the Prætor of the Citie & hys Brethren: before whom he laid open the whole treaſons of Celydon. As, that raiſed from meane eſtate to high dignitie by Hylenus their lawfull Souereign, he had conſented to ſo great a treaſon, as the exile of him, Aemilius his Heire, and Rhodope their beauteous Princeſſe. In this he vrged reaſons to proue Celydon principall: firſt the remiſſe life of Celinus (an argument in him of ſmall ambition) by Celydon ſoothed in ill, by his counſell diſinherited, then to this vnnaturall treſon animated, and now at laſt either brought to deſperate flight, or aſſured confuſion. To this he added, the remembrance of thoſe Citizens ſlaine the firſt day of the conſpiracie, the ſealting of the multitude for three dales following, the light paſſing ouer of Hylenus abſence & his children, the abuſing of Celinus youth, his owne ambition to be ſole Protector, concluding with the barbarous murder of Celinus ſeruants. This he laid open with ſuch effectiue woordes, mingling his ſpeech with teares, and filling their harts with terror, aſwell by olde example of Vſurpers tyrannies, as preſent inſtance of late performed Tragedies, that the Magiſtrates with

one voice desired him not onely to aduise what should be done: but also to lead them, and what heere inioyned they would performe.

Licosthenes then caused foure thousand to be armed, and with them went to the Pallace, where Celydon all fearlesse of that accident, was plotting which of the Senators first to murder after Celinus death: having sent the greatest number of his souldiers towards Petruosis house, wherein he heard he was kept prisoner. Licosthenes causing the Companies to bee placed on each side of the streete leading to the Pallace gate, was by the Captain of Celydons Gard demanded a reason for his armed approach: Who answered, it was onely to defend the Pallace and Treasurie: seeing a number of the Commons (by some turbulent person stirred vp) were gathered in the Market place, and would by no reasons bee allayed, till Celinus were deliuered them: wishing him to informe Celydon, that his Princelye presence was the only meane to allay the people, being gracious in their eyes: and therefore had he armed the better sort of citizens to be his strong gard, if he vouchsafed in person to prouide for the Cities safetie. Celydon hearing of this, hasted toward the Market place, of all other least fearing Licosthenes: who by the way arrested him of high treason, to which resisting, a smal skirmish began: which with Celydons death soone ended, who suppressed with many wounds, breathd forth his aspiring spirite from his blood-defiled trunke.

Much adoe there was next morning to allay mutenies, but by the diligence of the Magistrates the People were appeased: and messengers were dispatched to euerie neighbouring kingdome, to enquire of Hylenus or his children: and the sea-bankes were all about the coast searched for the bodie of Celinus, whome of certaintie they thought the storme had wracked.

It is long since I was in Crete, but when we come

there,

there, we will ende there. In the meane time, I will forward with the ſtorme, wherein the Prince Celinus and I were miſerably diſtreſt for ſome while the mounting waues heaued vs to the clouds, another while ſunk vs to the depth, which euerie moment wee accounted ſhould be our ſepulcher. Beſide this ſea-ſtorme, heauens windowes were opened, powring another ſea vpon our heads: our oares were borne ouer board, and we poore wretches (like condemned perſons in the Sergeants hands) hurried whether violence it ſelfe would driue vs. Our chiefeſt powers were imployed, either to hold other faſt, leaſt the mercileſſe waters ſhuld haue waſht vs from the boate. And while we lay thus infolded, I yeelding my ſelfe to death, he lamenting his deſperate life: I was not a little comforted, that theſe miſeries made him remember his miſchieuous courſes, and ſeeke reconciliation with God, being vtterly hopeleſs to enioy anie more the companie of men.

Nothing violent can bee permanent. This ſtorme ere morning ceaſed, and ſome eaſe was giuen to our afflictions: the cloudie vapors were chaſed to the South, and the gray Morning bluſhingly ſainted the Sunne, whoſe orient beames wantonned on the quiet waters. But theſe pleaſures little comforted vs, who fainting with extreame labor, had no meanes to obtaine foode. He that had heard the penitent Prince exclaime on Celydons perſwaſion to that vnnaturall treaſon, aſk pardon of his wronged father, iniurde brother, harmleſſe ſiſter: would haue relented into teares, in compaſſionating his greefe.

Three nights and two daies we hild along the Mediterrane ſea, careleſſe, foodleſſe, and ſtrengthleſſe. About the mid-watch of the laſt night, a ſtorme more furious than the firſt aſſailed vs, driuing our final boate againſt a rocke, where ſplitting in ſunder our weather-beaten bodies were with the parted ſides of the boate

seperated. My happie chance was such, euen when my vitall powers were past all sense, to bee preserued by a fisherman, with whom Rhodope the Thracian Princesse (calling her selfe Serena) dwelt, of him and all the neighbors dere ly beloued. At his house (with warme broaths and other helpes) my benummed limbs found feeling of life: Serena more carefully attending me for that I was of Thrace, whose turmoyled estate when she heard of, teares fell from hir eyes: but when I discoursed my wretched parting with Celinus, shee sunke to the ground. The Fisherman, his wife, my selfe with much adoo recouered hir, who weakely lifting vp hir head, cryed, A haples brother, haue heauens so little pittie of thy life, that they permitted not thy penitent soule to be reconciled to thy exiled father? With that the Fisherman askt if shee were daughter to a king? No said shee, but I was a handmaid to that haples Princes, and Celinus often would in Court like discourses account me for his sister. The Fisherman replied that to Aeliana shee should bee presented, if she were of so high a byrth. But Serena on hir knees besought shee might liue still in that meane estate, wherein as she had beene dutifull to him and his, so she would continue: And further besought they would giue entertainement to hir sea-wrackt countriman. Both hir requests were granted, and I in a small boate was set to fish in the riuer, on which riuer about two miles from the sea, Rhegius had a sumptuous Castle, for pleasure and strength vnmatcheable in all Crete. And since we are in Crete: let vs see how the affaires goe there. Rhegius vnable to quench his vnnaturall lust to Aeliana his kinswoman and souer aigne: grew enuiously impatient at Aemilius fauour, for Aeliana the Queene graced him with all honors, and he by his demeanor obtained the frendship of each Courtier.

A wicked Counsellour seruant to Rhegius, father of his

his luſt-burning loue, was one day drawen by Rhegius abroade, to whom in a groue not far from the ſea, in a thicket ſeldome frequented, Rhegius diſcouered his greſe, and deſired his aduiſe. There leaue we him a while, and ſée what ſhift Celinus made to get the ſhore: being immediately after the ſplitting of the Boate caſt into the hollowe of a rocke, in which by degrées aſcending, he obtained the top of the crag, and the tyde going out continued there til morning, whoſe light gaue him no ſmall comfort, for that he ſone diſcouered the ſhore: being a thicke wood within two furlongs of the rocks diſcent. Faint though hee were, the ſight of land gaue him vigor, what Coaſt it was he knew not, but intended to try, and caſting himſelf into the calme water (for betweéne the woode and the rocke there was a good lée, in ſhort ſpace he attained the ſhoare, entered the Wood, and finding certaine wilde fruit, refreſht therewith his fainting limbs. And toke ſome ſmall reſt vppon the ground, hauing had no ſléepe in thrée daies before. Hée was but newly awaked, when Rhegius with his wicked counſeller were hard at hand conferring about the practiſe touching Aemilius and Aeliana: His ſeruant thus aduiſing; Aemilius ſaid he, is this day a hunting néere your Caſtle, and as I vnderſtand, intendeth in your abſence to ſée the beautye thereof. There your Honorable cuſtome giueth entertaignment as well to ſtraungers as frée-borne Cretans, and thither if you pleaſe will I poaſt, inuite him all night to ſtay, aſſure him and his company, the Quéene within two daies will be there, and hath commanded him there to abide hir Graces comming: which graunted, in his bedde I will either murther him, or commit him priſoner (ſince I know your Honorable nature hateth murder) into the déepe vault of your Caſtle, where hee ſhall be kept till the Quéene bee won to yéelde to your intent. Her Grace you ſhall inuite to the ſame Caſtle, and in the

dead

dead of night enter hir chamber, be resolute, let not hir teares intreate ye, feare not we will attende ye, if once you seaze on hir, suffer hir not to escape, for though maydenly bashfulnes cause hir to be ouer-coy, yet once entred she will euer yelde. I, this is somewhat saide Rhegius, murder Aemilius I will not, but gladly would I remoue him, therefore his inthralment I consent vnto: For Aeliana my kinswoman, my soueraign, my soules chiefe health, faine would I vse her forceably, whome faire meanes cannot intreate, but that my feare to offend is almost equall to my loue. Ah tell me should she exclaime, in what case then were Rhegius? dishonored, pointed at, not only held a traytor, but esteemed incestuous: My Lord said Dolon, (for so was hee named) be not precise, if euer ye intend to effect the perfect fulnes of your affection. To you more than her is Crete beholding: she being lawfull heire hath onelie the title of Quéene, you hold the Soucreignitie: and would she not consent, I would compell her. If your affections bee setled as you say, you must vse force: if not, you may resolue otherwise as you please. Then as thou hast said (quoth Rhegius) let vs conclude: my ouer-maistred reason hath no reason to resist thy aduice. Herewith they heard a heauie groane sent by Celinus, that now knew himselfe in Crete by the name of Aeliana, and had hope to finde his Brother when hee heard mention of Aemilius. With his sight, Rhegius & Dolon looked backe, and sawe him faintly sitting vnder a Palme tree, neere the place they stood, and demaunded what he was? I am quoth he a miserable man, late sea-wracht on this shore, pined welnere with famine, greeued to talke, yet desirous to knowe one of you, that of his owne nature seemeth not ill inclinde, to shun the perswasions of the other; for by like counsell & self conspiracie, am I cast downe from Princely dignitie vnto this extremitie.

Hadst

Hadst thou said Dolon bẽn Monarch of the earth, yet thus shouldst thou perish for playing the eauesdropper: and therewith doubling wound on wound, left hym with his out-stretcht limmes all senseles on the earth. Rhegius remoued his bloudines, yet slightly past it, & leauing him without sepulcher, set forward with their detestable resolution.

Dolon at Rhegius Castle finds Aemilius, intertains him, stayes him, betrayes him, and in a deepe dungeon imprisons him, where day equalled the night in darknes, only a small glimmering through a crany in the wall descended. Aemilius that knew no reson for this wrong, doubtlesse of Aelianaes fauor, assured of Rhegius honorable thoughts, could not but complaine in that disconsolate place. Often he remembers his Father, moanes his sister, blames his brother, exclaymes on destinie, that had reserued him to such distresse.

This night it was my hap to be placing weeles in sundrie places of the riuer, and from a small lope hole to whose barre I fastned my boate, I heard the wofull accents of his sorowfull voyce, and at my returne certified Serena of the accident: who with me deuised, that next night I should take a number of canes, that being hollow and iointed, I might from my mouth question him, and he to the hollow of my eare returne answere. By which meanes being ascertained it was hee, I furnisht me with a long ladder of roapes, and engines to loosen the stone for his escape, which the third night wee effected.

I suppose you thinke there was some toy when bys sister and he met: three daies he there continued couertly, intending to heare the vulgar report about his absence, all which time hardly serud them for conference.

We left Celsus mortally wounded in the Wood: whom olde Hylonus (as hee was walking to gather hearbes) found: who powring balme into his wounds

and precious wine into his mouth, began a little to retourne red blod to his ashie-coloured cheekes, and some weake moouing to his benumbed limmes. At length he opened the heauie windowes of his dimmed eyes, and staring Hylenus in the face, with a feeble voyce thus questiond him: O what art thou that recallst from death, the sonne of all mischaunce and miserie? Why should thy age be pittifull to my yong yeares, that haue to kingly age been cruell, and on Princely youth shewed no compassion? Hylenus better marking this discoloured man, knew him at these words to bee Celinus: wherewith abundance of teares dewed his siluer hair, and true compassion toucht his princely heart: indeuoring both to recure him, and knowe what accident had brought him into that place and plight? Celinus as he was lead to the Hermitage, vttered the conspiracie betweene Rhegius and Dolon, referring his owne wretchednesse till hee were more refresht. As soone as Hylenus had dressed Celinus wounds, and giuen him precious restoratiues, with what spéd he might hee went to the Court, and to the Quéene vttred the whole conspiracie of Rhegius. Who obseruing his importunate loue, the Sauages attaitment, the absence of Aemilius, and withall that next day she was inuited to hir vnkles Castle, called a Counsell, before whom the Hermit againe opened the whole plot: whereat Rhegius confounded, confessed the fault. The Castle was sercht, but Aemilius could not be found: whereupon Rhegius & Dolon wer condemned of traitrous conspiracie & murder, the third day following appointed for their execution. Aemilius hearing of this tooke Rhodope, my master, and my proper selfe with him, appointing to bee at Court against the day of execution. Hylenus the daye before had brought thether his reconciled Sonne, who opened before the Quéene and States Rhegius vnwillingnes, and Dolons often tempting him: yet nothing

could

could alter Aelianaes iudgement, till Amilius leading Rhodope by the hand, shewed himselfe aliue. His only sight pleaded her Vnckles pardon: and Rhodopes first view sodainly changed Rhegius lawles affections. Short tale to make (for now the Sunne is setled in the West) Dolon was sent to bannishment, celinus and Rhegius were to either Soueregne reconciled, Aemilius by marriage with Aeliana was crowned King of crete, Rhodope giuen to Rhegius, the Fisher-man & my selfe richly rewarded. While feasts and triumphs continued in crete, messengers were sent into Thrace, whence sundrie Nobles came to attend Hylenus in his returne: where being ioyfully receiued, Licosthenes was honored with celydons offices, and celinus proclaimed heir apparant. My selfe might in either Court haue serued, but for my plaine condition I found them too curious: therefore hetherward I bent my course, intending to liue Menalcas man if he accept it, or kepe my owne Heard, when I can get it.

Godamercie Piers (said corydon) for thy good ende. The Euening Starre is vp, and ruddie Theris welcommeth the Sunne. After long troubles I like thy desire of rest: for in a shepheards life is both repose & recreation. I quoth Menalcas, Young DAPHNIS hath giuen his verdict of *The Shepheards Content*: duely praising it, as it meriteth. My bleating Lambes (said Piers) tell me it is time to folde, my Dogge hath brought my Heard into a head: you that haue hindred me all day helpe me a little at night, that I may in this kinde hereafter the willinger await your will. Hereto they both yelded: and corydon supping that night with Menalcas, entoyned him to bring Piers to their Plough-mans Holidaye. Where what happened, if Piers Plaines please, shall peraduenture be published.

FINIS.